

December 12, 2016

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Senator Jeff Sessions

Dear Senators Grassley, Leahy, and Feinstein:

We are former Assistant Attorneys General of the Department of Justice. We write in strong support of the nomination of Jeff Sessions to serve as the Attorney General of the United States.

We have interacted with Senator Sessions in his role as a member of the Judiciary Committee and/or are otherwise familiar with his reputation within the law enforcement community. Senator Sessions has a long and distinguished record of experience within law enforcement. Senator Sessions served for twelve years as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, for two years as the Attorney General of Alabama, and for two years as an Assistant United States Attorney.

In his tenure as both a Senator and a United States Attorney, Senator Sessions has demonstrated a commitment to the rule of law, and to the even-handed administration of justice. Senator Sessions was a co-sponsor of the Fair Sentencing Act, which aimed to reduce racial disparity in sentencing, as well as a bill to award Rosa Parks the Congressional Gold Medal. As United States Attorney, Senator Sessions worked to obtain the successful capital prosecution of the head of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan for the 1981 murder of Michael Donald, an African-American teenager.

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The career prosecutor sent from the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice in Washington to Alabama to try the case against Donald's killers, Barry Kowalski (who also successfully prosecuted the Rodney King case), was quoted recently about the level of support he received from then United States Attorney Sessions in prosecuting the case. Kowalski said that United States Attorney Sessions "couldn't have been more supportive of making sure we got convicted the murderers of the last black man who was lynched by the Klan." Kowalski added that "[a]t a time when many U.S. Attorneys in the South were not always welcoming to the Civil Rights Division, Jeff Sessions was. Jeff had the vision and the courage and the desire to do right."

We believe that Senator Sessions, if confirmed, will bring this same courage and desire to do right to his tenure as Attorney General. We are pleased to endorse his nomination and do so without reservation.

Respectfully Submitted,

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS HAVE SIGNED THIS LETTER IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES – PRIOR LISTED AFFILIATIONS ARE NOTED SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING THEIR RELEVANT BACKGROUND OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

R. Alexander Acosta
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division (2003-2005)

Viet D. Dinh
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Policy (2001-2003)

Grace Chung Becker
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division (2007-2008)

Alice S. Fisher
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division (2005-2008)

Steven G. Bradbury
Acting Assistant Attorney General and
Principal Deputy
Office of Legal Counsel (2005-2009)

Matthew W. Friedrich
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division (2008-2009)

Daniel J. Bryant
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legislative Affairs (2001-2003)
Office of Legal Policy (2003-2005)

Nathan J. Hochman
Assistant Attorney General
Tax Division (2008-2009)

Charles J. Cooper
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel (1985-1988)

Charles A. James
Assistant Attorney General
Antitrust Division (2001-2002)

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Kelly A. Johnson
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources
Division (2005)

Gregory G. Katsas
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division (2008-2009)

Wan J. Kim
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division (2005-2007)

William E. Moschella
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legislative Affairs (2003-2006)

Eileen J. O'Connor
Assistant Attorney General
Tax Division (2001-2007)

Theodore B. Olson
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel (1981-1984)

R. Hewitt Pate
Assistant Attorney General
Antitrust Division (2003-2005)

James F. Rill
Assistant Attorney General
Antitrust Division (1989-1992)

J. Patrick Rowan
Assistant Attorney General
National Security Division (2008-2009)

Thomas L. Sansonetti
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental and Natural Resources
Division (2001-2005)

Ronald J. Tenpas
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental and Natural Resources
Division (2007-2009)

Kenneth L. Wainstein
Assistant Attorney General
National Security Division (2006-2008)

Christopher A. Wray
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division (2003-2005)

Cc: The Hon. Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
The Hon. Charles Schumer